

From: 73417.2023@compuserve.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 4:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Concerns

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To whom it may concern:

I am concerned about this Microsoft monopoly issue. I happen to not like the way that Microsoft does business either and I think they are spoiling computer technology for everyone. Being a self employed mechanical drafting engineer/consultant, who uses computers to do CAD/CAM type of work, I find Microsoft Windows Operating System highly overrated as far as reliability is concerned. I just made a switch from AutoCAD to Bentley MicroStation 95 and VariCAD Professional Computer Assisted Drafting software for the Linux Operating System. The reason for doing this is Autodesk, Inc., who makes AutoCAD, is too blinded by Microsoft's billion dollar empire hype to even think about any other Operating System besides Microsoft.

Although Autodesk, Inc. has already developed AutoCAD Release 12 and 13 for the UNIX platforms, which is nearly identical to the Linux Operating System, they resist spending the money to port it to the Linux Operating System. I am unwilling to spend money on purchasing either Microsoft Windows NT, 2000 or XP Operating System(s) to use AutoCAD because it is just unreliable. What is good about a computer operating system if it crashes 95% of the time. I cannot work like this and there is no good reason for it, other than sloppy programming by Microsoft.

As you may already know, Linux (pronounced with a short i, as in LIN-nucks) is a clone of the UNIX Operating System, which runs on the Intel 80386, 80486 and Pentium series based computers as well as Sun and several other RISC based computers. Linux supports a wide range of software, from internet web servers to super graphics xwindows applications, such as satellite tracking to simple fun games. Linux is fully equip with several software development compilers, such as the GNU C/C++, Fortran, Perl, lisp, assembler and a lot more compiler programming languages. Linux includes TCP/IP network protocol support and lots more. It's a versatile, bona fide achievement of the UNIX Operating System, which has been freely distributed for many years now by the terms of the GNU, General Public License.

The Linux Operating System can turn a 386, 486 or Pentium series based PC into high-performance true 32-bit multitasking, multithreading, multiuser, reliable workstation. It will give the user the full power of UNIX at their finger tips. Businesses have been installing Linux on entire networks of machines as an alternative to the Windows NT, 2000 or XP operating system(s) to manage financial and hospital records, a distributed user computing environment, telecommunications, internet web servers and much more. Universities worldwide are using Linux for teaching courses on operation systems programming and design, not to mention computer enthusiasts everywhere are using Linux at home, for programming, productivity and entertainment.

Linux recently has gone on the commercial software market to compete with Microsoft Operating System products. Commercial software developers, such as Netscape Communications, Applix, Corel WordPerfect, Bentley Systems, VariCAD and many others are starting to support Linux. However, Linux still needs more recognition to have more commercial software developers and vendors support it.

The Linux Operating System is quite possibly the most important achievement of innovative software since the PC was invented. Currently Linux has a lot more to offer than Microsoft Windows 95, 98, NT, 2000, XP or even industrial UNIX has. Linux now supports multimedia and real-time video over the internet.

However, I find it extremely idiotic that such poorly structured, unstable, over rated Operating System, such as Microsoft Windows 95, 98, NT, 2000, and now XP is so well approved by the industry as stable to use for important tasks. Yet these Operating Systems are being accepted as an industrial standard Operating System for just about nearly all computers in the world. These Operating Systems have more crashes than Stirling Moss when he was sober. :) I cannot believe that businesses, who rely on computers to perform complex tasks, such as CAD/CAM, controlling nuclear reactors, medical research, human life support, etc., are heavily putting extreme trust in

such unreliable computer Operating Systems. Yet, I have noticed that people who do not know any better, make vast claim that "Microsoft Windows NT, 2000 and now XP completes with UNIX/Linux and will soon replace them." I find this claim off the wall and I wonder about people who support it. OK maybe UNIX/Linux X Windows environment does not pop on your computer monitor with a background of a green landscape, blue sky and white puffy clouds with all cute icons on it to click on at will. No big deal. It can be done with Linux too if the user wants it. However, that is not what a well designed, well structured, organized and reliable Operating System is all about. An Operating System is like the foundation of a multi-story building. If the foundation is not designed and built right, then it will not support the building for long and it will just come crashing down. It seems like Microsoft does not know about sound structure at all, not to mention network security. Instead, their attitude is they just want to have something to entice customers to keep spending money on Windows, whether it works or not. So what if there is broken glass because the foundation and all the rest of the building structure is not sound. Microsoft will make the customer pay for telling them how to sweep it up and buy a new revision of Windows again and again. This is exactly how Microsoft makes it's profits, not because Windows is a fantastic Operating System. The bugs in the structure makes Microsoft that much richer because they have to sell new versions to customers who do not know any better and this beat goes on. This is what puts Microsoft at the top and most people joined the ride unknowing what was going on.

Linux on the other hand is a good example of innovative people teaming up on the internet and showing the world what really can be accomplished with computers with a well designed, well structured, organized, and reliable Operating System. Linux out performs anything that Microsoft has ever marketed or is marketing right now. It makes the most of 386, 486 and Pentium line based PCs with a minimum of 32 to 64 Megabytes of RAM, 2 Gigabytes of hard disk space, and just about any type of graphics card available for the PC. It does a lot less swapping to the hard disk than any of the Microsoft Windows Operating Systems. Linux handles memory much more efficiently, allowing programs to run faster, without crashing and corrupting data. As I mentioned before, the Linux Operating System provides a true 32-bit multitasking, multithreading, multiuser Operating System environment that is stable, crash resistant and built to run continuously to serve it's users. The Linux Operating System includes just about everything to set up a super network server less the hardware. As a workstation Operating System environment, it's excellent! I have worked on a \$53,000 HP-UX based 700 Series solid modeler workstation, which was not as fast as my Pentium 100 MHz box running RedHat Linux 7.1 with 2.4 kernel. So anyone who is using Linux, has a super Operating System worth at least \$8,000. I praise software companies, such as Bentley Systems, Netscape Communications, Applix, Corel WordPerfect, Quarterdeck and others for being open minded and willing to take a chance on supporting the Linux Operating System.

I hope to see more software companies interested in the Linux Operating System and porting and developing new applications for it. This is the only way we are going to gain some ground from Microsoft and make the Linux Operating System even more popular.

However, it is not normal for software to have so many problems as Microsoft Windows for so many versions. One would think that a wealthy software company, such as Microsoft, would develop better software with time, which does not crash so much. However, Microsoft has not shown that in all their versions of Windows since they came out with Microsoft Windows Version 1.00. The truth is that Linux or UNIX is not 100% perfect, but what is? There is really no such thing as perfect bug free software. However, at least Linux runs reliable without crashing in a blink of an eye and offers better performance for little expense. The point is, why do computer users spend \$79 - \$87 for either Microsoft Windows 95 or 98 and \$259 - \$599 for either Microsoft Windows NT, 2000 or XP and have all problems installing them and once they are installed, they continuously crash? If I spend \$270 on an Operating System, I expect it to work with few problems. Also, why

should; I pay through the nose to get technical support to find out; oh, I'll need to buy a supplemental version or this is a feature that I'll have to live with, which is really a bug. If Microsoft was committed to writing better software products, I would have more respect for Microsoft. Unfortunately, their only interest is making fast Mega bucks and conning the computer world that their software is the only brand customers should buy.

We all should have the freedom of using a specific software package and Operating System without being restricted to market greed. I had my fill of throwing away my hard earned money on Microsoft junk. There is little gained, just to be frustrated when it crashes while I'm working on a complex drawing and having hours of my hard work go poof into no-where. This is where I would like to reboot Bill Gates for every dollar he has snookered out of people who helped to make his bank account swell. I do not envy him and when he goes on TV to be interviewed and says; "Oh, we take great interest in our customer's needs." If Microsoft was the only choice, I might have to stop using computers, I get so annoyed with his double talk. I know for sure that he does not give a damn about improving his products. He is making more money with the bugs in his products than the actual products. Go do the math. If each of his customers is paying \$2.00 a minute for technical support, which fully explains why he has billions. It's a grand con game.

Sincerely,

David A. Smith

Electronic Aides Design, Co.
email: 73417.2023@compuserve.com

From: David Smith <73417.2023@compuserve.com>
To: sales@autocode.com, 73417.2023@compuserve.com
Subject: AutoCode Mechanical (c)1994 for AutoCAD 12 DOS.
Date: Sat, 02 Jun 2001 19:54:09 -0400

Gentlemen:

I have a demonstration of AUTO-CODE for AutoCAD 12 for DOS and I would like to register it to enable it as a complete version. I use AutoCAD Release 12 for DOS solely, even though I have AutoCAD Release 13.

Please allow me to tell me a little about myself. I am an engineer and I have a very small business, called Electronic Aides Design, that I own and run in my two car garage. I primarily design special equipment for physically handicapped people. I happen to be physically handicapped myself. I am the president and main design engineer of this small company but I make very little of a cash profit. I guess you could call this a full time hobby than a business.

Anyway, I am in the middle of retrofitting a small 2 horse power 2.5 axis manually operated bench top milling machine to a full functional CNC milling machine. I would like to use your AUTO-CODE software, if I may, with my existing AutoCAD Release 12 for DOS software with this CNC milling machine, which uses industry standard G code language. I would like to know if I can still purchase the Authorization code string for this version of AUTO-CODE? This is my own legal registered AutoCAD Release 12 for DOS that I want to use AUTO-CODE with and I intent to respect your copyright agreement by not giving this software away to anyone with the Authorization code string. However, the \$995 [US Dollars] for the first module is a little steep for my small budget. and I was wondering if I could ask you if you would be so kind to reduce the price by at least 50% since it's out dated software by today's standards. I would agree with you that I am not expecting you to in title me upgrade benefits to the current version, except for bug fixes

to the DOS AutoCAD version of AUTO-CODE software. This would mean a lot to me if you would agree to this request.

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,

David A. Smith
Electronic Aides Design Co.
72 Delmore Ave.
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922-1200
Phone/Fax: (908) 464-2097
Email: 73417.2023@compuserve.com

From: "David R. Gibson" <david@autocode.com>
To: 73417.2023@compuserve.com
Subject: NC for DOS
Date: Tue, 05 Jun 2001 12:12:56 -0400

David Smith,

I am glad that you had an opportunity to look at our software and liked it. Unfortunately we do not support R12 or R13 anymore or have any means to create an authorization code for them. Our AUTO-CODE will only run on R14 and R2000 and soon the R2002 of AutoCAD. The cost has also gone up to \$2750.00 in the last year to help offset the costs associated with the development of new technology in our software. Good luck with retrofitting your mill and if we can be of service in the future keep us in mind.

David Gibson

From: Bill Kramer <bill@autocode.com>
To: 73417.2023@compuserve.com
CC: david@cave.net, sales@autocode.com
Subject: Re: NC for DOS
Date: Wed, 06 Jun 2001 09:23:16 -0400

Greetings,

Although we understand your situation, please understand that we are also a small company. To provide support for all versions of AutoCAD would greatly increase our support costs significantly. As such, many years ago, we made the choice to only support the current version of AutoCAD plus the previous. This has enabled us to provide software for this industry as a reasonable cost, with quality support. If we provide an authorization code to you, we are obligated to support you (whether you need the support or not) by our own ethical guidelines. That would require building an AutoCAD Release 12 machine with MS-DOS.

As you may also know, the selection of operating system is based on Autodesk and not us. As Autodesk went through growth phases in various operating environments we "tagged along". That means that at one time we supported MacIntosh, Unix, Sun, HP, MS-DOS, and now Windows. Release 12 ran on many of those platforms and we cleared those machines out several years ago, as many were loaners from the companies involved. All that remains here presently are 32 bit Windows based machines to support the current platforms of AutoCAD.

I do hope you understand our situation. In order for you to stay with MS-DOS, I suggest you look at BOBCAM as I think they still support that platform. You may be able to find some software on the web at e-Bay or in a web discussion group. It is still out there, it will just require

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some searching.

Sorry that we can be of no help to you at present, best wishes in your efforts.

Bill Kramer
AUTO-CODE

73417.2023@compuserve.com wrote:

>
> Dear Mr. David Gibson,
>
> Thank you for your reply. However, the fact that you don't support your
> DOS version of AUTO-CODE does not help me at all. I loath Microsoft
> Windows like mad. I personally think it is a lot of nonsense to go
> through to work with AutoCAD. I find AutoCAD for DOS much easier for
> me to use than the MS Windows version.
>
> As I mentioned in my previous email message, I have a demonstration of
> AUTO-CODE V 2.1 10.28.94 for AutoCAD 12 for DOS and I would like to
> register it to enable it as a complete version. I use AutoCAD Release
> 12 for DOS solely, even though I have AutoCAD Release 13.
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> Please allow me to tell me a little about myself. I am an engineer and I
> have a very small business, called Electronic Aides Design, that I own
> and run in my two car garage. I primarily design special equipment for
> physically handicapped people. I happen to be physically handicapped
> myself. I am the president and main design engineer of this small
> company but I make very little of a cash profit. I guess you could call
> this a full time hobby than a business.
>
> Anyway, I would like to use your AUTO-CODE DOS based software, if I may,
> with my existing AutoCAD Release 12 for DOS software with this CNC
> milling machine. I would like to purchase the Authorization code string
> for this version of AUTO-CODE. The check code = 503A-6700-7C86-ACM0.
> You must have a copy of the software that generates the Authorization
> code in your company somewhere. If you don't have a computer to run
> this software on, then may I purchase a licensed copy for my personal
> use only? This is my own legal registered AutoCAD Release 12 for DOS
> that I want to use AUTO-CODE with and I intent to respect your copyright
> agreement by not giving this software away to anyone with the
> Authorization code string. I do not want the new Windows version even
> if I could afford to pay you \$2750.00. I can't use the Windows version and
> I don't need a sales pitch to tell me how much better off I'll be with the
> Windows version. I know what I need and I have it already. If you want
> \$1000 for a copy of the Authorization Code Software, I would consider it.
>
> Again, this would mean a lot to me if you would agree to this request.
>
> Thank you very much for your help.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> David A. Smith
> Electronic Aides Design Co.
> 72 Delmore Ave.
> Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922-1200
> Phone/Fax: (908) 464-2097
> Email: 73417.2023@compuserve.com

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<http://www.autocode.com> -- AutoCAD CAM and utilities
<http://www.cadcruise.com> -- AutoCAD Education at Sea
<http://www.eclipse-chasers.com> -- Eclipses of the Sun and Moon
